

The Green Bank Act of 2017 (H.R. 2995/S. 1406)

H.R. 2995, introduced in the House by Rep. Elizabeth H. Esty, Rep. Paul Tonko, and Rep. Earl Blumenauer
Introduced in the Senate by Sen. Chris Murphy and Sen. Chris Van Hollen

The Green Bank Act of 2017 would create a National Green Bank that provides financing support to regional, State, and Municipal Green Banks to fund clean energy and energy efficient project. Financing support would come in the form of loans, loan guarantees, debt securitization, insurance, and other forms of risk management to eligible institutions –such as state, municipal, and regional green banks. Ultimately, these financing tools would generate returns that would allow green banks to become self-sustaining in the long term. This bill calls for an initial capitalization of \$10 billion, with a maximum capitalization of \$50 billion.

What is a green bank?

A green bank is a public financing authority that uses public funds to finance private investment in clean energy projects. This public-private partnership is responsible for promoting investment in clean energy sectors, as well as growing our economy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and enabling clean energy to be developed and distributed quickly and efficiently.

What clean energy projects qualify for this funding?

Clean energy projects include solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, hydropower, ocean and hydrokinetic, fuel cell, advanced battery, carbon capture and sequestration, next generation biofuels from nonfood feedstocks, alternative vehicle fuel infrastructure, and alternative fuel vehicles.

How will the Green Bank Act impact our national economy?

The Green Bank Act will grow our economy and create jobs. [For every \\$1 of public funds](#) provided by the green banks that have already been established, an additional \$6 in private funding is invested back into the economy. This high level of investment in clean energy projects not only improves air and water quality across the country, but also increases the number of high-paying, long-term jobs in clean energy sectors.

What states have successfully implemented green banks?

Since 2011, six states have established their own green banks – Connecticut, New York, California, Vermont, Hawaii, and Rhode Island. [The Connecticut Green Bank, which was first, has generated an average of \\$6 in private investment for every \\$1 in public funds](#), led to the creation of nearly 13,000 jobs, put approximately \$1 billion into play behind sustainable energy production, and reduced CO2 emissions by more than 2.6 million tons. [The New York Green Bank has leveraged \\$4 billion in total clean energy](#) business investments and is on pace to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 5.4 million metric tons over the next 19 years – the equivalent of taking 60,000 cars off the road. [Since its inception in 2014, California's Green Bank – the Lending for Energy and Environmental Needs Center – has approved nearly \\$9 million](#) in direct public financing to help meet the state's goals for greenhouse gas emissions reduction, water conservation, and environmental conservation.

For more information about the Green Bank Act, contact Jessica Brown in Rep. Elizabeth Esty's office (CT-05) at jessica.brown@mail.house.gov or at 202-225-4476.

Who has endorsed the Green Bank Act of 2017?

- League of Conservation Voters
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Coalition for Green Capital
- Connecticut Green Bank
- New York Green Bank
- Clean Water Action
- Climate Reality Project
- Connecticut League of Conservation Voters
- Connecticut Nature Conservancy
- New York League of Conservation Voters
- Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Save the Sound
- Newtown Forward

What folks are saying about the bill?

- **Reed Hundt, CEO of Coalition for Green Capital:**
"A 21st century energy infrastructure platform requires tremendous investment, and this investment will be a major driver of economic growth in the United States for years to come. Fortunately, Green Banks are well-positioned to be a major part of the solution to unlocking currently dormant private capital investments in the energy sector at the regional, state, and federal level."
- **Douglass Sims, Director of Strategy and Finance, Center for Market Innovation at the Natural Resources Defense Council:**
"Green Banks around the country are driving critical investment in clean energy infrastructure. This bill would take that commitment to the next level. That will mean a substantial increase in clean energy projects that create good jobs that can't be outsourced, boost local economies, and support public health."
- **Robert Wendelgass, President and CEO of Clean Water Action:**
"As we have seen in states like Connecticut, a Green Bank can be a primary driver of the clean energy economy. Green Banks are consistently innovative and highly credible. It is not just financing – the expertise a Green Bank is that it is able to bring together is as important as capital resources. A National Green Bank Act could not be more timely and useful."
- **Bryan T. Garcia, CEO of the Connecticut Green Bank:**
"As public-private partnerships, Green Banks accelerate the growth of green energy by providing innovative, long-term, low-cost financing for energy-saving improvements. They enable cities and states to help their communities access the enormous benefits of green energy. From \$173 million in public dollars, we have mobilized over \$1 billion of total investment in just over five years. As a result, the Connecticut Green Bank has been able to reduce the energy burden on 22,000 households and businesses, deploy 220 MW of renewable energy and in the process, help create 13,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs."